

Message Text

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15

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 EB-11

AGR-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 /167 W
----- 095655

P R 310350Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2340

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 7800

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REF: PHNOM PENH 7708

1. FOLLOWING OUR SUGGESTION PER REFTTEL, MARSHAL LON NOL
SENT TO FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKACHORN THE FOLLOWING LETTER:

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"AS YOU ARE AWARE MY COUNTRY CONTINUES TO FACE A VERY SERIOUS
PROBLEM OF RICE SHORTAGE. IN JULY THROUGH THE ACTIVE COOPERATION
OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE 5,000 M/T OF RICE
FROM THAILAND. AT THE TIME OF THIS PURCHASE, MR REPRESENTA-
TIVES IN BANGKOK WERE ADVISED THAT AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF
5,000 M/T OF RICE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT
IN LATE JULY AND UP TO 25,000 M/T MORE AFTER THE HARVEST OF
YOUR SECOND CROP, WHICH I UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

"IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING CESSATION OF UNITED STATES AIR SUPPORT
AFTER AUGUST 15, MY GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO BUILD UP
ESSENTIAL STOCKS OF RICE IN PHNOM PENH AND OTHER AREAS IN THE
KHMER REPUBLIC. IT IS THEREFORE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MY
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COUNTRY THAT AS MUCH OF THIS RICE AS POSSIBLE BE SHIPPED TO

THE KHMER REPUBLIC BEFORE AUGUST 15. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERING DELAYS IN THE SHIPMENT OF THE 5,000 M/T OF RICE ALREADY PURCHASED AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADVISED WHEN THE BALANCE OF 30,000 M/T MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE.

"I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING THE 5,000 M/T OF RICE WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD HOPE THAT A SECOND 5,000 M/T COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US IMMEDIATELY AS WELL AS AT LEAST HALF OF THE 25,000 M/T FROM THE SECOND CROP AND THAT THESE AMOUNTS COULD BE SHIPPED TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC BEFORE AUGUST 15. IN THE EVENT MILLED RICE IS NOT AVAILABLE, WE ARE PREPARED TO PURCHASE EITHER PARBOILED OR BROKEN RICE.

"I AM EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR EFFORTS IN THE PAST AND IN PARTICULAR YOUR ACTIVE INTERVENTION EARLIER IN JULY WHICH RESULTED IN YOUR GOVERNMENT'S KIND OFFER TO MAKE THIS ADDITIONAL RICE AVAILABLE TO US. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR ACTIVE COOPERATION IN SHIPPING THIS URGENTLY REQUIRED RICE TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC BY AUGUST 15.

"PLEASE ACCEPT. . . ."

2. ACCORDING TO THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE, THE LETTER WAS SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON SATURDAY, JULY 28 WHICH THEN SENT IT TO THE GKR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK ON JULY 29TH. WE ASSUME THAT THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO THANOM TODAY, JULY 30.

3. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER OF PLAN, THE MINISTER OF STATE CHARGED WITH PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT, MAJOR GENERWT THAPPANA NGINN, WILL GO TO BANGKOK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THANOM. AS YET, WE HAVE NO DETAILS ON HIS TRIP.

4. FOR BANGKOK. WE WILL APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF THIS LATEST EFFORT TO TRANSPORT RICE ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR AND ON THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RICE.
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Draft Date: 31 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SWANK
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Release Event: n/a
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